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URTEL 413

Would be unfortunate if Libyans under any illusion US can underwrite 5-year economic development program indicated REFTEL. We are also disturbed by indications Libyans trying use LARC as vehicle exacting more US aid. There is no basis for Pitt-Hardacre's statement second sentence third paragraph REFTEL that additional economic aid would be not less than amount first year. There was in fact no promise of any additional economic aid. Nor did we expect additional requests could arise immediately while large balances accumulated.

We explained to Libyan delegation to Washington last summer US constitutional and political obstacles to future commitment as well as our genuine doubts Libya could profitably absorb more than limited amounts of aid at this stage. Assurance of "sympathetic consideration" carefully phrased with these considerations in mind. Even so there was considerable sentiment within US Government against "sympathetic consideration" on grounds it would become Pandora's Box. Libyan position indicated REFTEL tends bear out this sentiment. Such position will only make it harder show any sympathy towards further Libyan bids for economic and military aid, or any expansion US military facilities Libya.

773.5 MSP/3-2255

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REVIEWED BY J.M. Ragi DATE May 6, 1982
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773.5 MSP/3-2255

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Drafted by: NEA/AF:JRoot:pkw 3/25/55

Telegraphic transmission and classification approved by: Leo G. Cyr

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FOA-Messrs. Moran & Silver

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Chances getting $15 million now for Libyan program so utterly negligible that you must remove any Libyan illusions thereon.

FYI only. We are not overlooking realities of situation. Executive Branch will probably include in classified portion its FY '56 Mutual Security budget presentation to Congress illustrative figure of $3 million to be shared by Libya and Ethiopia. But it is incumbent on Embassy and USOM/L induce some realism on Libyan side. There is no assurance Congress will approve even foregoing figure and availability to either country would have to be preceded by justification based on specific projects. End FYI.

Dulles
(ltc)

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